

The Tucumcari News

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MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Earnest Wheeler, Wealthy Stock man of Endee shoots Mrs. Burnum, and then turns Gun on himself and suicides.

INFATUATION FOR WOMAN SUPPOSED TO BE CAUSE.

Monday morning at 10 o'clock at Endee, occurred a murder and a suicide. Earnest Wheeler a wealthy stock man, shot Mrs. Bart Burnum twice through the breast and through either arm, killing her instantly, and then blew out his own brains, the two bodies falling side by side in front of the ranch door. The story told by those who were witnesses to the end of the tragedy is as follows:

"A rancher by the name of Gibson stopped at the home of Wheeler to see Burnum's brother who was at the time sick in a room of the residence, next that in which the shooting occurred. He left the sick room and passed the door of the room occupied by Wheeler and Mrs. Burnum. Wheeler was laughing and joking and asked Gibson to come in and visit awhile. After the usual exchange of courtesies Gibson mounted and rode away and at a distance of about two hundred yards he heard a shot and looking back saw Mrs. Burnum rush from the room, fall to her knees and raise her hands toward Heaven as in an attitude of begging for life. Wheeler walked to the door and continued shooting, the last bullet being turned into his own brains. Mrs. Burnum fell with her head on the door step and Wheeler fell in the door touching her body. The eighteen months old baby of Mrs. Burnum came out of the room where the sick man lay and climbed onto its mother's breast, and clasped her about the neck. Neither of them spoke after Gibson reached them. It is believed that Wheeler became infatuated with the woman and that this led to a quarrel between them resulting in him taking the life of both. Wheeler was buried here Wednesday afternoon and Mrs. Burnum was laid to rest in the cemetery at Endee. The brunt of this tragedy falls on the husband and five children of Mrs. Burnum.



By Courtesy Santa Fe New Mexican.

W. H. Andrews, Delegate to Congress, has done more for the relief of the old soldiers who are entitled to pensions and increase of pensions than all other delegates together. He is eternally at it, looking after the welfare of his constituency in every way a representative of the people can and his efforts for statehood have been untiring. New Mexico knows he is capable and of course expects something of him. He has not disappointed them in a single instance. The veterans under the shade tree in the picture, with their comrades everywhere in New Mexico, consider him the bird early in securing a measure of justice to them before the bureau of pensions.

B. M. Looney of Quay was in town Wednesday for ranch supplies. His brother, H. G. Looney, has been appointed postmaster at Looney, and will keep it in his store.

Frank Record of the firm of Jackson & Record, real estate, bought the pool hall on Second street, Jones & O'Neal, and Prof. J. B. Frazier is interested with him and is in charge of the business.

W. H. Burton and White from San Jon, were visitors a day or two. Burton is in the hotel business at San Jon and has many good things to say about the country out there.